

Amdt. Dated Feb. 10, 2006

Reply to Office Action of Sept. 6, 2005

[Para 16] 1) A small amount of adhesive can be applied to each end of the body frame **11**, whereupon the absorbent material **10** is attached to the adhesive covered areas. If using cotton fiber as the applicator material, this would be followed by twisting the body frame **10** to wrap the material into the applicator shape. In relation to rolling and applying cotton fiber specifically, please refer to U.S. Pat. No. 3,090,080 (Pellicone et al.), U.S. Pat. No. 3,452,650 (Cobb) and Canadian Patent 990,564 (Cottrell).; or

[Para 17] 2) By heating the ends of the cut plastic body frame **10** to a temperature high enough for the absorbent material to become attached directly to the semi-melted portions of the body frame. This would also lower the materials costs over traditional swab manufacture by eliminating the need for adhesives altogether.

What is claimed is:

[Claim 1] A swab comprising two primary components:

a straight, wide, flat, elongate body frame with two ends opposite one another made of pre-formed plastic with rounded edges; and an absorbent applicator material attached at both ends of the body frame, wherein:

said body frame width is double that of the round sticks used by traditional swabs, providing the amount of body frame width necessary to create an offset length to which the applicator can be affixed, and

said body frame is formed with a square cutout at each end resulting in an offset length, and

the cutout at one end of the body frame is inverse from the cutout at the opposite end of the body frame, and

said absorbent applicator material will be either cotton fiber, foam rubber or any suitable similar type material.

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[Claim 2] A simplified process for creating a swab wherein:

a swab body frame is made using lengths of inexpensive plastic sticks which are cut down to a prescribed length by a conveyor system, or

a swab body frame is made using rolls of inexpensive plastic material cut down to a prescribed length by a conveyor system, and

a swab body frame is made using an offset metal blade to cut a plastic stick or roll at a prescribed distance along its length to create the swab's body frame, and

an absorbent applicator material is attached to said body frame.